

DREADFUL LOSS OF LIFE IN THEATRE FIRE!

HAD ONE WIFE, WEDDED ANOTHER CHRISTMAS EVE

Fifth Avenue Bookkeeper Contracted a Bigamous Marriage the Day Before Christmas, Wife No. 2 Living Around the Corner from Wife No. 1, Who Is an Heiress.

SAID TO HAVE MADE COMPLETE CONFESSION OF HIS GUILT.

Uncle and Guardian of His First Wife Played Role of Detective and Discovered, It Is Alleged, Record of Ceremony No. 2 at Little Church Around the Corner.

When Herbert W. Talcott, the handsome young bookkeeper for the Macmillan publishing house at No. 55 Fifth avenue, disappeared on Christmas Eve his young wife and the members of her family, fearing he had met with foul play, began a systematic search for him. This search has now come to a grim finish, for, according to charges preferred in court, it revealed a double life which the young husband had been leading and which he had brought to a climax by deliberately marrying an innocent nineteen-year-old girl whom he had been courting for months right under his wife's nose.

Not the least remarkable feature of this very unusual case is that the rear wall of the apartment-house in which Talcott and his wife lived almost touches the rear wall of the apartment-house in which the young girl he is alleged to have deceived into marrying lives with her mother. The Talcotts had a flat at No. 210 West Twenty-first street, while Mrs. Wighton, the mother of the second wife, lives at No. 225 West Twentieth street. From the rear windows of one flat-house one can look into the rear windows of almost all the flats in the other house. Yet for nearly five months Talcott is said to have courted Miss Wighton without her having the least idea that he lived with a wife in the rear of her own home, and Mrs. Talcott never had the slightest suspicion of anything wrong.

Talcott is now under arrest on a charge of bigamy, with his wife of less than two years a stern and relentless prosecutor, and his wife of less than a week, a mere child, heart-broken at her home over the cruel deception of which she was the victim. As for Talcott, he had no explanation of why he treated a faithful wife and an innocent child so brutally. He simply says he had to do it, and apparently can give no other reason.

Talcott's first wife was Miss Annie E. Brown, a member of the old Little family, of this city, the members of which have occupied a house at No. 266 West Seventeenth street, on the site of the old Little farm, for almost half a century. It was in this historic old home that Talcott wooed and won his first wife, a tall, beautiful girl, with an independent fortune, and it was from there that he took her when they were married on April 1, 1902.

The unfortunate child, who married Talcott in all good faith on Christmas Eve, is Miss Carolyn Louise Wighton, nineteen years old, of 225 West Twentieth street. She lived in a comfortable, if not luxurious, home there with her mother and brother, and there Talcott courted her, while his own wife lived with him in a pretty home just around the corner, at No. 210 West Twenty-first street.

The first Mrs. Talcott is only twenty years old, but she looks older. She is tall and slender, with dark hair and blue eyes and dresses in the best of fashion. She first met Talcott five years ago, when she was fifteen years old and he was twenty. He was just entering the Macmillan Publishing house and he wanted to marry Miss Brown then, but her grandmother and her uncle and guardian, Thomas B. Pratt, a wealthy retired business man, who also lives in the Seventeenth street house, would not hear of it until he had established himself.

The youngsters were permitted to become engaged, however, and Talcott worked so hard to advance himself that when he renewed his request to marry Miss Brown her relatives agreed. They were pleased with the entire arrangement, for Talcott had shown himself a hard-working, conscientious young man, and, besides, he was tall and fair, with a splendid figure. The wedding took place at Englewood, N. J., the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of that city.

After a brief honeymoon the couple came to this city to live and furnished an apartment at No. 210 West Twenty-first street. There they lived luxuriously, for although Talcott made but moderate wages, his wife's income was always at his disposal. Their life was apparently very happy, Talcott rarely staying away from home in the evening.

Last Thursday Mrs. Talcott asked her husband to meet her in the late afternoon and go with her to a mission on Fifty-third street near Columbus avenue, where she was to help distribute Christmas gifts to poor children. Talcott promised his wife that he would be on hand, but he failed to put in an appearance. At 7 o'clock he had not shown up, so Mrs. Talcott went on to the mission, leaving a note behind for her husband to follow her.

It was almost midnight when Mrs. Talcott got home from the mission. Her maid told her that Talcott had not been home and had not sent any word. Greatly worried Mrs. Talcott called up her guardian, Mr. Pratt, on

FAVORITES LOSE AT NEW ORLEANS

Dr. Stuckey Was Heavily Played to Win Opening Event, but Jake Weber Makes a Run-away Race of It.

THE WINNERS.

FIRST RACE—Jake Weber (18 to 5) 1. John Coulter (4 to 1) 2. Ithan 3.

SECOND RACE—Booster (5 to 2) 1. Malay (6 to 1) 2. Mary Moore 3.

THIRD RACE—Agnes Brennan (5 to 1) 1. Allista (15 to 1) 2. Komombo 3.

RACE TRACK, NEW ORLEANS.
Dec. 30.—A good card and fine weather made the track the destination of many people today. The course was in excellent shape and good contests marked the day.

FIRST RACE.
One mile.
Starters, whts. jocks. St. Hif. Fin. Betting.
Jake Weber, 107, Minder 1, 12 1/2 18-5 2-2
John Coulter, 95, Higgins 2 1/2 24 4-3
Ithan, 92, W. Fisher 3 3/4 28 20-1
Hymettus, 106, Pieratt 3 3/4 43 100-20
Ardin, 108, Treutel 3 3/4 49 0-2 5-2
Felix Barn, 107, Robbins 8 7 50 0-2 5-2
Royal Pirate, 94, Hyman 2 8 14 1/2 12-1
J. Hammond, 94, Kins 3 7 14 1/2 12-1
Havel, 81, Schilling 1 3 64 60-12
The Talkman, 80, Fair 1 3 64 60-12
Past, 106, McCaffery 9 10 11 15-6
Water Tower, 100, Munro 12 12 100-20
Start good. Won easily. Time—1:40 4-5.

SECOND RACE.
Mile and a quarter.
Starters, whts. jocks. St. Hif. Fin. Betting.
Booster, 92, Hennessey 2 1/2 11 6-2 7-10
Malay, 96, Lindsey 3 3 25 1-1
Mary Moore, 81, Allen 3 3 25 1-1
The Regent, 104, Phillips 4 11 45 7-10 1-5
J. Hammond, 94, Kins 3 7 14 1/2 12-1
Havel, 81, Schilling 1 3 64 60-12
The Talkman, 80, Fair 1 3 64 60-12
Eucenia, 81, Stoval 3 2 8 75-20
Start good. Won easily. Time—2:08 4-5.

THIRD RACE.
Five furlongs.
Starters, whts. jocks. St. Hif. Fin. Betting.
Agnes Brennan, 108, G'n 8 30 15 8-2
Komombo, 105, Heisen 3 24 39 11-5
Allista, 107, Phillips 5 24 39 11-5
Eucenia, 81, Stoval 3 2 8 75-20
Start fair. Won easily. Time—1:01.

WAR WARNING GIVEN BY JAPAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Japanese Minister called at the State Department today and reported that the situation in the Far East is one that gives great concern and that Japan is making preparations for the worst. It is hoped, however, that Russia will reconsider her first answer to Japan's request.

At the Russian Embassy and Japanese Legation it was stated today that the situation in the Far East has entered upon a critical stage. Both the Russian Ambassador, Count Cassini, and Mr. Kogoro Takahira, the Japanese Minister, express the hope that war is not yet inevitable. Count Cassini goes further, and is of the opinion that the situation may yet be saved without recourse to arms, but the Ambassador has no official advice on which to base this belief, and it is only his personal view of the matter. Mr. Takahira takes a more pessimistic view of the case.

Russia and Japan are receiving numerous letters from Americans all over the country offering their services in the event of war. The Russian Ambassador and the Japanese Minister are accepting all offers of assistance. It is believed that the Russian Minister is not believing that war with Russia and Japan will occur, the optimistic tone in official and diplomatic circles here was somewhat modified today by advices from Tokyo and St. Petersburg. Japan, it appears, is hastening preparations, for the purpose, it is suggested, of influencing Russia's action upon the Japanese note.

Russia, on the other hand, has no intention to hurry. Her rest is not expected to be made before Jan. 10. Russia's purpose seems to be to put the onus of declaring war upon Japan, if such be the result of the negotiations.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—News has been received here confirming previous reports that Japan is mobilizing, probably with the object of occupying Korea. The confirmation has reached the German Government officially and it is interpreted here, as in Paris, to mean that Japan intends to send an ultimatum to Russia, but that Japan may

(Continued on Second Page.)

WEATHER FORECAST.
Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Thursday for New York City and vicinity: Partly cloudy to night and about six degrees colder; probably light snow early Thursday morning; Thursday moderating, with light snow; fresh west, becoming south to southeast, winds.

Cures Colds or Money Back.
Father John's Medicine prevents pneumonia.
For a Cold on the Lung, and to take the Cure, All

BUSINESS MEN NOW ORGANIZED FOR CONVENTION

Meet in the City Hall and a Committee is Named to Secure for This City the Great Democratic National Conclave to Name a Candidate for President in 1904.

MR. JOHN D. CRIMMINS IS SELECTED TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN.

J. Edward Simmons Is Treasurer—Meeting Held in the Office of Mr. Crimmins to Push the Fight on the Same Lines—Others Interesting Themselves in the Movement.

At the meeting of citizens held in the anteroom of the Board of Aldermen's chamber this afternoon to take concerted action toward bringing to New York the Democratic National Convention, to be held in June, 1904, a committee of five was appointed to meet John D. Crimmins, who is working on the same lines, and appoint such committees and raise such funds as will be necessary to insure the convention being held here.

Mr. Crimmins has been working hard to accomplish this result and has interested the railroads and business men of the city, hoping to get sufficient pledges of money from them to make a bid for the convention which will have the desired effect. The gentlemen named on the committee were J. Edward Simmons, W. L. Jaques, Simeon W. Ford, William C. Whitney, John Quincy Adams and Daniel M. Donegan. The last named has had wide experience in arranging national conventions and has been in conference with Mr. Crimmins.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Adams, who explained its object in a short speech. The committee was then named and was given power to act. It was suggested that the committee appoint sub-committees to get to work immediately.

Mr. H. D. Dumont said: "I am here representing the Merchants' Association and have come to say that the association is heartily in favor of this movement and will aid as individuals and as a body. What we want now is money with which to bid for the convention. When the organization begins to act we can be depended upon."

The naming of the committee was then in order. The committee was elected as a whole. Mr. Simmons was made Treasurer of the Citizens' Committee, with full power. Mr. Crimmins was chosen as Chairman.

While the meeting was in progress Jacob A. Cantor, Borough President, was announced and took his seat in the center of the men who were appointed on the committee. He said that the movement had his full sympathy.

A telephone message was received from Mr. Crimmins to the effect that he was held at his own office by a similar meeting, but that he would be in accord with the plans of the other meeting. He said that he could report progress as far as he had gone in trying to secure the convention.

It is not known how much money Mr. Crimmins has now raised, but it is believed that he has a sufficient fund to make the convention advocates feel greatly encouraged.

The convention was discussed in all its details before and after adjournment of the meeting. It was agreed that the convention would be a most beneficial thing for New York City.

These are some of the men who were present at the meeting: Senator Fitzgerald, Senator Frawley, Peter Voorhis, the real estate broker; James Oliver, Alderman John T. McCall, Timothy P. Sullivan, Simeon Ford, W. L. Jaques, Daniel Donegan, Aldermen Florence, Dowling, Reitch, Doull, Sheriff-elect Erlanger, John White, W. B. Calvert, and representatives from all of the railroads running into New York.

At the meeting held in the office of Mr. Crimmins the question of raising funds was discussed and the organization was put on its feet.

Mr. Crimmins said later: "We are doing splendidly. I believe that by Tuesday next we will be thoroughly organized and ready to put in our bid for the convention. I have seen the following gentlemen, among others, and all of them are in hearty sympathy with the movement and will assist me in every way: D. S. Lamont, Anthony N. Brady, O. H. P. Belmont, James A. O'Gorman, T. C. Platt, Jefferson M. Levy, F. W. Lawrence, President of the Lotos Club; J. Edward Simmons, Bourke Cockran, J. C. Hendricks, Hugh J. Grant, T. C. Barney, R. C. Smith and many other men of prominence."

"This is a business venture solely," Mr. Crimmins continued. "I have told my co-workers this and they are all working for the good of New York and not for any political movement."

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Adam A. Goodrich, chairman of the Local Committee formed to secure the National Democratic Convention for Chicago, today announced the names of more than 100 prominent citizens appointed to place Chicago's claim to the convention before the National Committee when it meets at Washington. The list includes, besides Chairman Goodrich, the names of National Committeeman Thomas Gahan, of Illinois; Mayor Carter H. Harrison and James H. Eckels, former Comptroller of the Currency.

500 REPORTED DEAD BY FIRE OFFICIALS

Wild Panic Among the Women and Children in the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago, Who Fought Each Other in Mad Efforts to Escape, and Many of Whom Were Trampled to Death in the Aisles.

BODIES OF SIXTY DEAD WERE REMOVED WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER THE FIRE STARTED.

Blaze Started in the Electrical Fixtures in the Wings and Spread so Rapidly that the Whole Structure was Soon Burning—Actors and Actresses Leaped from Stage and Fought to Get Out.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—The Iroquois Theatre took fire this afternoon and probably five hundred persons were burned to death amid a frightful panic.

The fire started during the matinee performance of "Bluebeard Junior" when the theatre was packed with women and children.

The blaze started without warning while the second act of the play was in full swing. The flames burst out from the flies of the theatre in full view of the great audience.

Immediately the theatre was filled with cries of "fire," and the audience rose to its feet and rushed wildly for the doors.

The flames spread with remarkable rapidity, soon enveloping the entire stage and swirling throughout the theatre, licking up curtains and draperies.

Actors and actresses fled screaming from the stage into the orchestra, fighting with the maddened throng, composed of the audience.

The cries of the panic-stricken people could be heard for a block about about the theatre. In a few minutes the entire interior of the building was a mass of fire and dense smoke, amid which the people fought and struggled.

When the firemen arrived they directed all their efforts to breaking the jam at the door and succeeded in pulling out a dozen men and women with their hands and faces burned.

The panic-stricken people were caught in a jam at the door and those in the rear were burned by the flames.

Fire Marshal Dusham, who personally went in the balcony, reported that there were from three hundred to five hundred bodies lying piled up on the floors of the two upper balconies. In one place there seemed to be over a hundred. Chief Musham ran up and down in front of the theatre urging his men for God's sake to go upstairs and bring the people down.

Numbers of the firemen rushed up in the smoke and they were soon bringing people down, most of them unconscious, and some crushed. Some of these people were suffocated by the smoke, but most of them were thrown down during the panic which ensued when some one cried "Fire!"

Manager Davis said that the cry of "Fire!" created a panic, and that this accounted for so many losing their lives. Though the fire started amid an electrical display on the stage there was apparently little protection for the audience and those who rushed for the exits became hopelessly wedged in the narrow apertures which were soon enveloped in fire.

Women and children climbed upon one another and fought and scratched to gain the entrance. Many who succeeded in reaching the doors were in flames.

When the fire started the aisles were crowded in the rear of the theatre. The men trampled upon the women and children heedlessly and before the fire had encompassed the interior of the theatre the entire aisles were carpeted with the forms of men and women who had been trampled into unconsciousness.

The panic soon reached the street and spread throughout the neighborhood. Meanwhile special calls and a general alarm had summoned an extraordinary number of fire-engines.

The fire chief and marshals took immediate charge of the fire. Two little girls, ten years old, were the first bodies taken out. Later a dozen women, who had been trampled in the balcony and caught in the flames as they swirled up from the stage, were carried out.

Sixty bodies were taken from this pile alone within an hour after the firemen got into the building.

LEFT BABE'S BODY ON CROSSTOWN CAR

Police Surprised at the Contents of a Package Which a Young Woman Had Placed on a Seat.

Herman Lann, of Cleveland street, Corona, L. I., saw a young woman get off a Twenty-third street crosstown car at Second avenue this afternoon and leave behind her a neatly wrapped parcel. He called to her, but she apparently did not hear him. Then he grabbed the parcel and ran after her, but she was lost in the crowd, so he thought the best thing he could do would be to take the package to the East Twenty-second street police station. The curious police unwrapped the parcel and were surprised to find that it contained the dead body of a male infant only a few days old.